

Application Number 10/657,949  
Amendment dated November 12, 2004  
Responsive to Office Action mailed August 11, 2004

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of Claims:**

- Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cover system comprising:  
a metallic tray to hold a liquid to be heated by a heater unit, the tray including a mouth;  
and  
a cap coupled to the tray, the cap extending around the mouth and sized to cover at least a portion of the heater unit.
- Claim 2 (Original): The cover system of claim 1, further comprising a hermetic seal where the cap is coupled to the tray.
- Claim 3 (Original): The cover system of claim 1, wherein the tray and the cap are formed as a single unit.
- Claim 4 (Original): The cover system of claim 1, wherein the tray is made of stainless steel.
- Claim 5 (Original): The cover system of claim 1, wherein the cap is made of plastic.
- Claim 6 (Original): The cover system of claim 1, wherein the cap comprises at least one of a translucent material and a transparent material.
- Claim 7 (Original): The cover system of claim 1, wherein the heater unit comprises a heating element, the cover system configured to place the tray in contact with the heating element when the cap covers at least a portion of the heater unit.

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Claim 8 (Original): The cover system of claim 1, wherein the cap includes an outer perimeter, the outer perimeter comprising a lip.

Claim 9 (Original): The cover system of claim 8, further comprising a drape coupled to the lip.

Claim 10 (Original): The cover system of claim 1, further comprising a drape extending outwards from the cap.

Claim 11 (Original): The cover system of claim 10, wherein the drape is made of silicone.

Claim 12 (Original): The cover system of claim 10, wherein the drape comprises at least one of a translucent material and a transparent material.

Claim 13 (Original): The cover system of claim 1, further comprising a coupling element to temporarily couple the cover system to the heater unit.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A cover system comprising:  
a tray comprising a mouth; and  
a cap coupled to the tray, the cap extending around the mouth and sized to cover at least a portion of a heater unit and including an outer perimeter, the outer perimeter comprising a lip,  
wherein the tray and the cap are coupled to prevent the passage of air and water.

Claim 15 (Original): The cover system of claim 14, wherein the tray and the cap are formed as a single unit.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The cover system of claim 14 ~~[[16]]~~, further comprising a drape coupled to the lip.

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Claim 18 (Original): The cover system of claim 14, further comprising a drape extending outwards from the cap.

Claim 19 (Original): The cover system of claim 14, wherein the tray and the cap are coupled by at least one of molding, adhesive, riveting, clamping, snapping, bolting and latching.

Claim 20 (Original): The cover system of claim 19, further comprising a sealant interposed between the tray and the cap.

Claim 21 (Original): The cover system of claim 14, further comprising a coupling element to temporarily couple the cover system to the heater unit.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

a heater unit; and

a cover system sized to cover at least a portion of the heater unit, the cover system comprising:

a tray; [and]

a cap coupled to the tray; and [[,]]

a drape extending outwards from the cap;

wherein the tray and the cap are coupled to prevent the passage of air and water, and wherein the heater unit includes a first coupling element and the cover system includes a second coupling element, the first and second coupling elements configured to mate to temporarily couple the cover system to the heater unit.

Claim 23 (Cancelled).

Claim 24 (Original): The system of claim 22, wherein the cap and the heater unit are sized to define an air gap between the cap and the heater unit when the cover system covers at least a portion of the heater unit.

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Claim 25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (New): A cover system comprising:  
a tray to hold a liquid to be heated by a heater unit, the tray including a mouth; and  
a cap coupled to the tray, the cap extending around the mouth and sized to cover at least a portion of the heater unit;  
wherein the tray and the cap are stable to repeated sterilization processes.

Claim 27 (New): The cover system of claim 26, wherein the tray and the cap are formed as a single unit.

Claim 28 (New): The cover system of claim 26, wherein the cap comprises at least one of a translucent material and a transparent material.

Claim 29 (New): The cover system of claim 26, wherein the heater unit comprises a heating element, the cover system configured to place the tray in contact with the heating element when the cap covers at least a portion of the heater unit.

Claim 30 (New): The cover system of claim 26, further comprising a drape attached to the cap.

Claim 31 (New): The cover system of claim 26, further comprising a coupling element to temporarily couple the cover system to the heater unit.